

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte application No  
PCT/US2005/000399

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 B65D88/62 B01D21/00 B65B31/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B65D B01D B65B A47L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 443 709 A (BORD NA MONA) 28 August 1991 (1991-08-28) column 3, line 25 - line 33; figures	1,2
X	US 4 723 969 A (DEMARCO ET AL) 9 February 1988 (1988-02-09) column 5, line 49 - column 7, line 56; figures 1,3,4	1-4,11, 12
A	EP 0 621 176 A (WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION) 26 October 1994 (1994-10-26) column 1, line 27 - line 42; figures	1,3,11, 12
A	US 4 174 741 A (PARSONS, JAMES D ET AL) 20 November 1979 (1979-11-20) abstract; figures	1,3,11, 12
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

### \* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 May 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

31/05/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 101 40 899 A1 (3A-ABWASSER-, ABFALL-) 6 March 2003 (2003-03-06) abstract; figures	1,3,11, 12
A	US 3 343 199 A (NOLTE LOUIS C) 26 September 1967 (1967-09-26) abstract; figures	1,3,11, 12

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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### Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1,2,11

Apparatus comprising

- (a) a substantially rigid container defining at least one inlet port and at least one outlet port;
  - (b) a flexible, substantially non-porous bag; and
- a vacuum pump in fluid communication with the rigid container through said outlet port,.

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2. claims: 3-10,12-14

Apparatus comprising

- (a) a substantially rigid container defining at least one inlet port, at least one outlet port and at least one sealable bladder port;
  - (b) a flexible, substantially porous bag; and
- a vacuum pump in fluid communication with the rigid container through said outlet port.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inte Application No  
PCT/US2005/000399

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0443709	A	28-08-1991	IE 900118 A1 EP 0443709 A1	17-07-1991 28-08-1991
US 4723969	A	09-02-1988	NONE	
EP 0621176	A	26-10-1994	US 5347793 A BR 9401259 A DE 69404201 D1 DE 69404201 T2 EP 0621176 A1 ES 2105512 T3	20-09-1994 25-10-1994 21-08-1997 13-11-1997 26-10-1994 16-10-1997
US 4174741	A	20-11-1979	CA 1116539 A1	19-01-1982
DE 10140899	A1	06-03-2003	NONE	
US 3343199	A	26-09-1967	NONE	